

### REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 14, 27, and 28 are in independent form. Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 14, 16, 17, 24, and 27 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly.

One of the features of the claimed invention is to set a time limit for each object data of multimedia data comprised of a plurality of object data, and to control a reproduction process of each object data based on the time limit. By virtue of this feature, it is possible to prevent excess use of a predetermined object set with a time limit.

International Publication No. WO 99/48296 (Shamoon et al.), which is cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 24, 2001, is understood to disclose that a Rule 719 in control messages may specify a Budget 718, which may include information relating to the number of uses available to the user, the amount of money that the user has to spend, etc. Once the Budget 718 reaches zero, the Rule 719 may specify that "the work may no longer be played" (see page 15, line 33, to page 16, line 5, of Shamoon et al.).

That is, Shamoon et al. is understood merely to teach that the work is played (i.e., a reproduction process of multimedia data is performed) based on the number of uses available to the user. Thus, Shamoon et al. is not seen to disclose or suggest that a reproduction process of each object data is controlled based on a time limit set for each object data, as claimed the pending claims.

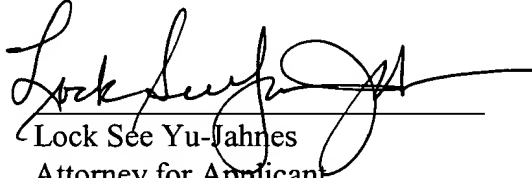
U.S. Patent No. 5,638,443 (Stefik et al.), which corresponds to JPA 08-263439, discloses the use of a loan period and a remainder time as state information of

a digital work. That is, setting a time limit for each object data is disclosed. However, nothing has been found in Stefik et al. that relates to extracting the time limit and controlling a reproduction based on information of the extracted time limit. (Please note that Stefik et al. is cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith.)

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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